

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested.

Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's allowance of claims 20, 23, 27-36, 40, 55-59, 61, 62, and 64-75, as well as the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 3-5 and 48. With respect to the reasons for allowance, Applicant agrees that the combination of features recited each of the allowed claims as patentable. But to the extent the Examiner's reasons for allowance are inconsistent with or add additional limitations to the claims, Applicant disagrees because the claims define the invention.

Claim 58 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph noting that the term "the tunnel" in line 6 lacks sufficient antecedent basis. Claim 58 has been amended to overcome this rejection. Claims 24-26 are also rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph noting an improper dependency. Claim 24 is amended to depend from allowed claim 23. Because claims 24-28 depend from allowed claim 23, they should also now be allowed.

Claim 20 stands objected to noting an informality. This misspelling on line 3 has been corrected. Withdrawal of the objection to claim 20 is requested.

The Examiner has made a new series of rejections based primarily on newly-cited and applied U.S. Patent 6,430,698 to Khalil and U.S. Patent 6,243,758 to Okanoue. Without commenting on the relevance of these references or the propriety of the rejection, Applicant believes these rejections are moot because claim 1 incorporates the

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allowable subject matter of claim 3 and claim 37 incorporates the allowable subject matter of claim 48. Consequently, all of the rejected claims should now also be allowed.

The application is in condition for allowance. An early notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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